

Ceftriaxone

What is Ceftriaxone?

- It is an antibiotic given by injection.
- It is the preferred treatment for gonorrhea.
- It is also provided to some people who have been exposed to a person with bacterial meningitis.

What are common side effects?

- Local reaction at injection site including pain, hardness and tenderness.

*Call your health care provider if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away.

What are less common side effects?

- Skin rashes/hives;
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea;
- Swelling of the intestines (colitis);
- Blood disorders; and
- Headache/dizziness.

*Call your doctor or seek medical attention **immediately** if these symptoms occur.

Who should not take Ceftriaxone?

- If you have a known ceftriaxone, cephalosporin (for example cephalexin) or penicillin allergy be sure to tell your health care provider as ceftriaxone may not be right for you.
- Tell your health care provider if you have any bleeding, gall bladder, pancreas, liver or kidney disorders.

Counseling Guidelines

- Should only be used during pregnancy if the likely benefits outweigh the potential risk to the fetus and the mother.

What might be felt after receiving Ceftriaxone?

- Local reaction at the injection site:
 - pain; and
 - hardness and tenderness.
- Ceftriaxone is usually given with lidocaine to reduce any discomfort.
 - Please tell the doctor or nurse if you have had a reaction to either of these medications in the past.

Care of Yourself Following Treatment?

- Please wait in the clinic for 15 minutes after your treatment.
- If you have any reaction following treatment (rash, itchiness, difficulty breathing), please inform a staff member immediately.

Special Instructions

- Do not have sex without barrier protection until:
 - One week after you finish treatment; and
 - Your sex partner(s) has (have) also been treated.
- Tell your health care provider if:
 - You have sex with an untreated partner, or
 - You have sex before either you or your partner's treatment is complete.
- If you are using a hormonal form of birth control (oral, patch, injection), use an extra method of protection during antibiotics and for seven days after.

Adapted from Saskatoon Health Region and British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC)